

Message Text

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EXDIS MILITARY HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT USNATO 296 ACTION SECSTATE
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QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 00296

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS DEFENSE AND USNMR SHAPE

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TAGS: MPOL, NATO, SP

SUBJECT: JANUARY 10 PERMREPS LUNCH: SPANISH ATTENDANCE AT
NATO DEFENSE COLLEGE

REFS: (A) USNATO 00137 (DTG 061803Z JAN 78, NOTAL),
(B) STATE 004756 (DTG 071859Z JAN 78, NOTAL), (C) USNATO
00273 (DTG 111320Z JAN 78)

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SUMMARY: THIS CABLE REPORTS ON THE JANUARY 10 PERMREPS
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LUNCH DISCUSSION OF THE SPANISH REQUEST FOR OBSERVER
SPACES AT THE NATO DEFENSE COLLEGE (REACTION WAS COOL) AND
SUGGESTS HOW NATO MIGHT BEST RESPOND. ACTION REQUESTED:
SEE PARA 7. END SUMMARY.

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1. AT JANUARY 10 PERMREPS LUNCH SYG LUNS SAID THAT CHAIRMAN
OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE ZEINER GUNDERSEN HAD PASSED ON TO

HIM A REQUEST FROM THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR IN BRUSSELS FOR APPROVAL TO SEND SPANISH STUDENTS TO THE NATO DEFENSE COLLEGE (REF A). LUNS SAID HE WAS CONCERNED THAT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT COULD SET AN UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT. THE ISRAELIS HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ATTENDING THE NATO DEFENSE COLLEGE, AND THE EGYPTIANS HAVE PUT OUT FEELERS. ONCE THE DOOR IS OPEN TO NON-MEMBERS THE ALLIANCE COULD BE SUBJECT TO PRESSURES FROM SEVERAL QUARTERS. LUNS CONTINUED IT WAS HIS PERSONAL FEELING THAT SPAIN WILL NOT SOON APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP. IN ANY EVENT, HE SUGGESTED ALLIES RUMINATE ON ISSUE AND SAID HE WOULD RETURN TO IT IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS.

2. CATALANO (ITALY) SAID HE HAD NO NEED TO RUMINATE. HE WAS CERTAIN ROME'S REACTION WOULD BE NEGATIVE. MOREOVER, THE ALLIES SHOULD NOT ENCOURAGE THE SPANIARDS IN THE DIRECTION OF WORKING OUT SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS. SVART (DENMARK) NOTED THAT AS THERE WAS NO PRECEDENT FOR PERMITTING NON-MEMBERS PARTICIPATION IN THE NATO DEFENSE COLLEGE, THERE SHOULD BE NO OFFENSE TO SPAIN IF THE REQUEST WERE REFUSED. PORTUGUESE AND NORWEGIAN PERMREPS SUPPORTED THE DANISH AND ITALIAN POSITION. CHARGE AGREED ON THE NEED TO TAKE TIME TO CONSIDER THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT DURING THIS CONSIDERATION ALLIES WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT POINT THAT IF DECISION WERE NEGATIVE WE SHOULD STILL SEEK TO AVOID APPEARANCE OF HARD REBUFF. SUCH A REBUFF COULD UNDERCUT THOSE IN SPAIN WHO SUPPORT SPANISH MEMBERSHIP. CONFIDENTIAL

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3. KIRCA (TURKEY) NOTED THAT PERHAPS SOME ARRANGEMENT COULD BE MADE ALLOWING LIMITED SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN SPECIAL COURSES. OTHERS ACCEPTED CHARGE'S POINT RE AVOIDING COLD REBUFF. SEVERAL PERMREPS OPINED THAT SPANISH AMBASSADOR MAY HAVE BEEN ACTING ON HIS OWN.

4. THE DISCUSSION CONCLUDED WITH A LONG CONTRETEMPS INVOLVING FRENCH, GREEK, ITALIAN AND TURKISH PERMREPS OVER "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIPS" WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. TINE (FRANCE) ARGUED IT WAS NOT INCONCEIVABLE THAT SPAIN MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT, WHILE LAGACOS (GREECE) INSISTED GREECE WAS A FULL MEMBER AND NO PARALLEL COULD BE DRAWN, AS ITALIAN HAD GRATUITOUSLY SUGGESTED, BETWEEN GREEK SITUATION AND ANY FUTURE SPANISH ARRANGEMENT.

5. COMMENT: WE ATTEMPTED TO PREVENT LUNS FROM BRINGING THE SPANISH REQUEST TO A HEAD BEFORE WE COULD WORK WITH OTHER ALLIES AND LUNS ON THE BROADER QUESTION OF INSTITUTIONAL LINKS BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE ALLIANCE (REF B), OF WHICH THIS IS BUT A PART. HOWEVER, LUNS DID NOT FEEL THAT HE COULD REFRAIN FROM RAISING THE SUBJECT SINCE THE SPANISH AMBAS-

SADOR HAD ALREADY INTRODUCED THE ISSUE INTO THE MILITARY COMMITTEE, AND THEREFORE TO THE ALLIES.

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WE DO NOT SEE ANY POSSIBILITY THAT SPAIN WILL BE PERMITTED TO SEND OBSERVERS TO THE DEFENSE COLLEGE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. UNANIMITY WOULD BE REQUIRED AND, AS THE LUNCHEON DISCUSSION SUGGESTS, IT WILL NOT BE FORTHCOMING. EVEN SHOULD IT BE, SEVERAL NATIONS CAN BE EXPECTED TO PURSUE THE RELATED QUESTION OF SHARING NATO CLASSIFIED MATERIAL WITH SPANISH OBSERVERS AT THE COLLEGE WHICH WAS RAISED DURING THE MC MEETING REPORTED REF A.

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WASHINGTON MAY THUS WISH TO CONSIDER HOW NATO SHOULD BEST TURN DOWN THE SPANIARDS ON THIS QUESTION. THE ALTERNATIVE
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OF INVITING SPANISH LECTURERS AS PREVIOUSLY SUGGESTED BY EMBASSY MADRID MIGHT BE A USEFUL WAY TO GIVE THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR A RESPONSE WHICH IS POSITIVE IN TONE. EVEN THIS ALTERNATIVE APPROACH, HOWEVER, WOULD HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY WORKED OUT WITH LUNS AND THE ALLIES.

6. ACCORDINGLY, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD SPEAK TO LUNS AND KEY ALLIES SUGGESTING THAT LUNS MIGHT BE ASKED BY PERMREPS TO TELL THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR THAT:

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--AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, IT DOES NOT APPEAR POSSIBLE TO SET ASIDE PLACES FOR SPANIARDS AT THE COLLEGE FOR THE TIME BEING;

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--OTHER NATIONS ARE INTERESTED IN SENDING OBSERVERS TO THE COLLEGE AND THE ONLY EVENHANDED WAY TO DEAL WITH THESE REQUESTS IS TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THE COLLEGE EXCLUSIVELY FOR NATO MEMBERS;

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--SHARING NATO CLASSIFIED MATERIAL, WHICH IS USED EXTENSIVELY AT THE COLLEGE, REQUIRES UNANIMITY. FREQUENTLY AT LEAST ONE ALLIANCE NATION HESITATES TO SHARE SUCH MATERIAL WITH A NON-MEMBER. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN AN CASE OF THE MORE HIGHLY CLASSIFIED DATA;

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--AN APPROPRIATE WAY TO LINK SPAIN AND THE DEFENSE COLLEGE AT THE OUTSET MIGHT BE FOR NATO TO CONSIDER INVITING SPANISH GUEST LECTURERS TO SPEAK AT THE COLLEGE. IF THE AMBASSADOR WOULD CARE TO PURSUE SUCH AN ALTERNATIVE, I (LUNS) WOULD WORK TO GAIN APPROVAL.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON REACTION TO THE ABOVE APPROACH TO BE USED WITH LUNS AND OTHER ALLIES.
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